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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,550	07/13/2001	Pauli Koutonen	FORSAL-16	3909

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JOHN QUOC

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3654

DATE MAILED: 02/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,550

Applicant(s)

KOUTONEN, PAULI

Examiner

John Q. Nguyen

Art Unit

3654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stefanoni (US 5217177) in view of applicant's admitted prior art or, vice versa, applicant's admitted prior art in view of Stefanoni.

Stefanoni discloses an apparatus having substantially all the claimed features including two sets of blades which allows one set to be changed while the other set is cutting. Applicant's admitted prior art discussed on pages 1-2 of the specification discloses well-known features such as the papermaking machine including slitting width adjustment operation for complementary-sized cores. That the change in the one set of blades includes an adjustment in the widths between the blades would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person having ordinary skill in the art based on factors such as preference and operational criteria. Steps such as the application of glue, passing the web with a drawing nip, using a flying change unwinder are old and well known in the art and the use of such would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to obtain the same functions. The slitting assemblies of Stefanoni are deemed to be adjustable, or alternatively, to make them adjustable, which is old and well known in the art, would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide for adjustability to obtain the desired web widths as taught by the admitted prior art. Or alternatively, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide the admitted prior art apparatus with slitting assemblies in succession as taught by Stefanoni to facilitate adjustment/changing and reduce down-time.

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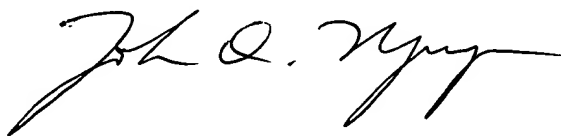
Applicant's arguments filed 11/25/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It should be noted that the main purpose of Stefanoni in the provision of two sets of blades is "the elimination of dead times to change blades" (col. 1, lines 61-62), which appears to also be applicant's purpose the two sets of blades. That the change includes an adjustment in the widths between the blades would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person having ordinary skill in the art based on factors such as preference and operational criteria. As noted above, the admitted prior art includes slitting width adjustment operation for complementary-sized cores.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-2689. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Matecki, can be reached on (703) 308-2688. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 (before Final) and (703) 872-9327 (after Final).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-4177.



John Q. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3654